(b) whether the General Manager N.E.C.L. Margretta, Assam has been presently investigating the activities of officials of this mine;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what has lead to retrenchment of workers by the officials who have been named by the Janata Mazdoor Sangh, Dhanbad, Jharia for the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Adulteration of Diesel by mixing Kerosene Oil

941. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government are contemplating to take to prevent the adulteration of diesel by mixing kerosene oil in it; and

(b) whether it is a fact that while replying to the questions asked in the programme "Janavani" on November 5, 1985, he had opined that adulteration of diesel by mixing kerosene oil in it was due to the cheaper prices of kerosene oil and that a way-out to prevent this adulteration was to equalise the prices of both; and if so, whether the prices of diesel and kerosene oil are proposed to be equalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Apart from examining the feasibility of using a suitable chemical additive, the oil companies inspect retail outlets and take suitable action in appropriate cases under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines. Government have requested State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to intensify checks against adulteration and other malpractices.

(b) The difference in the prices of these products will be kept in view at the time of reviewing the price structure of petroleum products.

National Drug Authority

942. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Drug Council Report favours MNCs" which appeared in Business Standard of 11th October, 1985;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that though the Hathi Committee had recommended for the establishment of a National Drug Authority; Government had instead approved the setting up of a field organisation under the Development Commissioner (Drugs);

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no separate Development Commissioner for the last three years and thus the benefit of the pricing policy is not reaching the common man;

(d) what are the functions assigned to the Development Commissioner who is looking after these functions along with his own functions and

(e) what are the reasons for the delay in the appointment and by when it would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO CHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (e) On administrative considerations, from May 1983, Joint Secretary (Drugs) is also attending to the functions of the Development Commissioner (Drugs). The implementation of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1979 has moderated the prices of medicines.